

HISTORICAL DESCRIPTION OF THE PROVINCE OF MUNSTER.

THIS province, the largest of the four, occupies the south-western portion of the kingdom. It has Connaught on the north; the boundary marked by an irregular line from Galway Bay through the Sleibh Baughta to the Shannon; on the north-east Leinster, from which it is parted by another imaginary and uneven line, commencing at the Shannon, five miles south-west of Banagher, and stretching south south east to Carrick on Suir, whence the river Suir distinguishes its limits to the sea; on every other part it is bounded by the Atlantic Ocean. It is about 135 miles in length and 120 in breadth. There are 62 baronies, 686 parishes, and 3,377,149 acres. The number of houses, together with the population of this province, according to the census of 1821, is as follows, viz.

	<i>Houses.</i>		<i>Inhabitants.</i>
Clare.....	36312	..	209595
Cork.....	103622	..	802535
Kerry.....	34612	..	205037
Limerick.....	44357	..	280328
Tipperary.....	60200	..	353402
Waterford.....	25545	..	154466
Total.....	304648		2005363

THE COUNTY OF CLARE, anciently called Thomond, has the dangerous bay called Mul, or Mal Bay and the Atlantic Ocean on the west, Galway on the north, whence it is parted by an irregular line from Galway Bay through Sleibh Baughta to Leugh Derg, between Innis Calthia and Moynoe; on the east it has the county of Tipperary; and on the south the Shannon, which separates it from the counties of Kerry and Limerick. It has its present name from Richard and Thomas de Clare, sons of the Earl of Gloucester, to whom King Edward I. granted this county. It extends about 33 miles from north to south, and about 52 miles from east to west; it contains 476,200 acres, Irish plantation measure, of which 256,062 acres consist of mountain, bog, and waste. The Sleibh Baughta in the north-east, a cluster of mountains at the opening of Galway Bay on the north-west, one of some eminence, south-west of Kilfarboy on the western side, and a few lofty hills in the south above the Shannon, between the lakes formed at the confluence of the river Fergus with the Shannon, serve in those parts to diversify the almost general level of the county. On the eastern side are some inconceivable lakes, and three north of Ennis, the superfluous waters of which form the river Fergus. Lead is found in the Sleibh Baughta, veins of copper near Tulloch 12 miles east of Ennis, iron in Killarboy mountain, and coal beneath the southern hills near the Shannon. Beautiful spars, like those of Derbyshire, have also been collected from different caverns in this county. Clare is divided into nine baronies, Burrin, Inchiquin, Coreomroe, Ibricken, Moyferta, Bunratty, Islands, Tullagh, and Clanderlagh, which contain 79 parishes.

THE COUNTY OF CORK, the largest in Ireland, extends about 85 Irish miles from east to west, and its greatest breadth is about 44. Before the arrival of Strongbow it constituted a kingdom, of which the M'Carthy's were sovereigns. It is bounded on the north-east by Waterford, on the north by Tipperary and Limerick, on the north-west by Kerry, and the sea environs the remaining portion on the west and south-west. It is divided into seventeen baronies, which comprise 137 parishes: the baronies are Kinaltalloon, Imokilly, Condons and Clangibbon, Barrymore, Fermoy, Orrery and Kilmore, Two Barrets, Duhallow, Muskerry, Kerry and Currihy, Kinalea, Kilnameaky, Courcies, Ibacone and Barryroe, East Carberry, and West Carberry. Its surface comprises 1,048,799 acres Irish plantation measure, of which 231,959 acres are bog, mountain and waste. It abounds with excellent harbours, rivers, and an abundance of springs and rivulets. Its most considerable river is the Blackwater, issuing from mountains situated on the confines of Kerry; the river Lee, next in magnitude, also issues from Lough Lua, situated at the foot of these mountains, which separate the counties of Cork and Kerry: the river Bandon derives its source from the mountains

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bordering on Dunmanway; the Fen rises in the mountains above Drimoleague, the river Aubeg is consecrated to immortality in the pastoral lays of Spencer by the poetical appellation of Mulda, on whose banks, it is supposed, he composed the principal part of his Fairy Queen. The south-western part of this county is filled with mountains and narrow valleys, and a ridge, called the Bogra and Nagles mountains, proceeds from Mangerton in the south of Kerry longitudinally through the county; north of these is a rich valley terminated by lofty uplands and the Galtic mountains, south of the ridge the county is singularly fertile, with little exception, to the sea. Copper, lead, coal, iron, ochre, clay and limestone are its mineralogical productions. The linen manufactory flourishes in the vicinity of Cork, whence much of that article is exported. The woollen manufactures are serges, camblets, rattens, frizes, druggets and narrow cloths.

THE COUNTY OF KERRY is bounded by the Shannon on the north-east, which separates it from the county of Clare, and by Limerick, by Cork on the south and south-east, and by the Atlantic Ocean on the west; its greatest extent from north to south is about 53 Irish miles, and from east to west forty-one. Its surface comprises 647,650 acres, including bogs, mountains and waste. It has eight baronies; Tragh-ticonnor, Troughanacny, Magunihy, Clanmorris, Demkerron, Iveragh, Clanerought and Corkguinny, which contain 84 parishes. Agriculture, generally speaking, is in a more backward state here than in the county of Cork, owing to the soil being much inferior, and a great portion of this county is dreary, desolate, mountainous, and almost uninhabitable. The altitude of some of its mountains envelops their summits in perpetual fogs. Its principal rivers are the Blackwater, Feal, Gale, Brick, Cushin, Mang-lea, Mesk, Laune, Carrin, Fartin, Inney and Roughty; the most celebrated medicinal waters, discovered in this county, are the Killarney, Iveragh, Fells-well, Dingle, Castlemain and Tralee Spas, besides the saline spring, which flows near Mahirebeg. The lake of Killarney situated in this district is eminently distinguished for its boundless beauties, and exhaustless variety of diversified rural scenery, which attract universal admiration. The southern baronies abound with iron, lead, and copper; and the Kerry pebbles are held in high estimation.

THE COUNTY OF LIMERICK is bounded on the north by the river Shannon, which separates it from the county of Clare; on the east by Tipperary, on the south by Cork, and by Kerry on the west. Its extent from east to west is about 40 Irish miles, and from north to south about 25. Its surface comprehends 386,750 acres, Irish plantation measure, including bogs, mountains and waste. It is divided into nine baronies, Owneybog, Clanwilliam, Coonag, Small County, Coshlea, Coshma, Publeobrien, Kenry, and Connillo, which last barony exceeds the other eight in magnitude. Limerick city, with its liberties, constitutes a distinct county. This county contains 126 parishes, and is thickly inhabited. It can boast of a large portion of some of the richest land in Ireland. The soil is a rich, mellow, crumbling, sandy loam, and is fit for every kind of culture. Its most considerable collection of fresh water, is Lough Gur, and Knock-patrick is the most elevated mountain. This county is watered by the following rivers—the Maig, which receives a number of rivulets in its course to the Shannon, falls from the Galtic mountains south of Kilsannan, and from the high lands which mark the boundaries of Limerick and Cork, the two branches uniting five miles north-west of Kilmallock, join the Shannon at Carigagunell; the Deel, which from two sources in the same highlands, west of the preceding, falls into the Shannon at Askeyton. There is a coal mine at the western extremity of the county, but turf is the general fuel of the inhabitants. Lead occurs in the lime stone mountains above the Deel near Askeyton, and fine slate near Abbyfeale on the borders of the county.

THE COUNTY OF TIPPERARY. Westward the Shannon parts this county from Galway and Clare, below which it is bounded by Limerick and Cork; mountains and the river Suir, part it from Waterford on the south; on the north and north-east it has the same limits as the province, and adjoins to King's and Queen's counties and Kilkenny. Its length from north to south is about 52 Irish miles, and its greatest breadth from east to west about 30. Its surface comprises 554,950 acres Irish plantation measure, including bogs, mountains and waste. It is divided into 12 baronies, Lower Ormond, Upper Ormond, Ikerin, Isleagh, Owen and Arra, Kilnelegurty, Kilnemannna, Sewarda and Compsy, Middle Third, Clanwilliam, Iffa and Ofa, and Eligurty, which contain 186 parishes. This county is chiefly level, possessing no mountains of considerable elevation; the northern part is tolerably fertile, and consists mostly of lime stone and lime stone gravel; the western portion is rugged, coarse, and hilly.